



## **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN MINUTES – MAY 14, 2009**

***Permit and Resource Management Department  
2550 Ventura Avenue, Santa Rosa CA 95403***

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chris Allen, Mary Basham, Christina Brenner, Karen Famini, Jan Kiely, Lisa Maldonado, Donna Roper, Priscilla Vivio

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Liz Acosta, Patricia Boyd

**JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dell Jacoby and Maggie Martin

### **I. CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF:**

Kiely called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

### **II. CONSENT ITEMS:**

The Agenda for May 14, 2009 was approved; minutes from the April 9, 2009 Commission meeting were approved. (Roper/Famini)

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

### **IV. COMMISSION UPDATE:**

Swearing in of New Commissioners:

None.

Appointments and Openings:

Kiely announced that Boyd will be resigning from the Commission in order to serve on the Commission on Human Rights. Therefore, there are now two vacancies in the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (2), two in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District (2); one in the 4<sup>th</sup> District (1), and two vacancies in the 5<sup>th</sup> District (2), totaling six openings overall (7).

Kiely noted that with Boyd's resignation, the Commission no longer has a Liaison to the Family Violence Prevention Council or the Family Justice Center. She asked for this matter be added to the agenda for the Commission's June meeting.

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Officer Nominations:

Kiely read the duties and requirements for servicing as an officer of the Commission. The following nominations were put forth for consideration and possible vote at the June Commission meeting: Kiely for Chair, Brenner for Vice Chair, and Roper for Officer-at-Large.

## **V. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES:**

### Announcements:

- ◇ Roper announced that this is affordable housing week and noted that the County's affordable housing alternatives have increased.
- ◇ Basham announced that she serves on the Community Housing for Sonoma County Board. The Board is currently working with Burbank Housing to develop affordable housing alternatives for the disabled, and will be opening 17 units in the Guerneville area soon.
- ◇ Roper announced that it is the Guerneville Community Fund drive.
- ◇ Brenner announced that she has an appointment with the president of the Center on Policies in Women's Studies in Washington, D.C. next week. She plans on discussing the local efforts and concerns about human trafficking and will share the Juniors' findings from their focus groups as well as any additional information that the Leg/Rep committee thinks is appropriate.

### Supervisor Communication Updates:

- ◇ Vivio reported that she, Allen and Famini met with Supervisor Brown to update her on the efforts of the Commission. Supervisor Brown reiterated her support of the Commission.
- ◇ Kiely announced that she had attended the Board of Supervisors' recognition of the Junior Commissioners at its May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. She reported that she was impressed by how articulate the Juniors were and commended Famini on her comments to the Board. She also noted that Supervisors Brown and Zane were both very supportive of the Juniors and the Commission in general.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS:**

### Legislation and Representation Request for Support Process:

Roper reviewed the proposed revision to the Procedure to Review Requests for CSW Action used by the Legislation and Representation Task Force and explained that the revision was intended to provide a process by which time-sensitive requests for the Commission's support can be handled. She also noted that the County Code may preclude the Commission from taking positions on legislative proposals without Board approval and asked staff to research this matter. ACTION TAKEN: The Commission unanimously voted to approve a motion (Roper/Brenner) to accept the proposed revision to the Procedure to Review Requests for CSW Action as presented with revisions as needed to comply with the County Code.

#### Update on WIN Scholarship:

Staff provided background on the WIN Scholarship program by explaining that approximately \$9,000 in proceeds from the Women in Industry Awards events remains on deposit with the YWCA. These funds were designated to be used to fund scholarships for young women (grades 7 – 12) to attend programs in the math/science or leadership/public policy fields. The Commission discussed alternatives for dispensing the funds and agreed to develop a list of alternatives to be reviewed at the June Commission meeting.

#### Operating Budget Update:

Staff reviewed the updated budget that had been distributed to Commissioners. To date, the expected expenditures total \$5,000.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS:**

#### CA Women Lead: Training for Appointments to Boards and Commissions:

Roper explained that the Legislation and Representation Task Force needs Commission approval for its plans to conduct a training session on Appointments to Boards and Commissions. CA Women Lead, a non-profit organization, can handle all the coordination for and conduct the training session. At present, the plans call for a two hour session to be held in early August, and the cost would be \$1,000. ACTION TAKEN: The Commission unanimously approved a motion (Roper/Basham) to approve the expenditure of \$1,000 of the Commission's 2009-10 budget for a training session on Appointments to Boards and Commissions and to retain CA Women Lead to coordinate and conduct the session.

#### Set Date for Strategic Planning:

The Commissioners discussed alternatives for how to conduct their strategic planning session and asked staff to coordinate the logistics for this meeting. They identified Thursday, August 13, 2009, Friday, August 14, 2009, Friday, August 21, 2009 and Thursday, September 11, 2009 as possible dates.

### **VIII. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### Legislation and Representation Task Force (Acosta/Roper/Vivio):

Roper and Vivio asked the Commission for guidance on the best process for sharing their research findings on legislation currently under consideration at the state and national level. Vivio noted that they have identified a number of proposed bills that relate to human trafficking, healthcare, and the insurance costs for women, and she shared summaries of each of the bills. The group decided that this information should be passed along to the Task Force/Liaison dedicated to the topic that bill's subject. Roper agreed to research the positions that the Women's Political Caucus and the League of Women's Voters has taken on the proposed legislation.

#### Junior Commission (Famini):

Famini reported that two important events had taken place for the Juniors since the Commission's April meeting.

◇ **Reception on May 5<sup>th</sup>:**

The Juniors presented their focus group findings to their parents and guests. In addition a panel of women in politics (Supervisors Brown and Zane and Petaluma City Councilmember Tiffany Reneé) spoke about women in politics and answered questions. Famini expressed her appreciation for the assistance she had received from Jeanne Robinson, volunteer for the Juniors project. She also thanked Basham and Roper for their help in providing refreshments for the event.

◇ **Board of Supervisors Recognition of the Junior Commissioners on May 12<sup>th</sup>:**

Famini explained that the Board recognized each of the Juniors with a Gold Resolution honoring their service to the County. She also observed that all the Supervisors were support of the Juniors and their accomplishments.

Kiely, Brenner and Basham all expressed their appreciation for Famini's work to mentor the Juniors.

Famini asked all the Commissioners to support the project by helping to distribute applications for next year's Juniors project to the high schools. She explained that our experience demonstrates that personally presenting the applications to a teacher (Advanced Placement classes) and/or Guidance Counselor result in improving the applicant pool.

Women's History Month Coordinator (Basham/ Roper/Vivio):

Basham reported that she has a tentative appointment with the Chair of the Women's Studies program at Sonoma State University in hopes that they might collaborate with the Commission on the project. She also noted that the group that supports Santa Rosa's Rural Cemetery could be a valuable resource for information about local women in history.

Self-Sufficiency Calculator (Maldonado):

Maldonado reported that she had tried to work with the calculator and found it to be complicated. She has an appointment to meet with a local financial planner to better understand how this tool might be used to help women in the County.

Older Women's Issues Task Force (Allen/Kiely):

No report.

Speakers Series Task Force (Brenner):

Brenner announced that there have been no additional speaking opportunities.

Recruitment Task Force (Acosta):

Staff reported that Acosta has volunteered to accompany Commissioners when they meet with Supervisors to discuss recruiting new Commissioners.

Liaison Reports:

◇ **ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta):**

No report.

◇ **Family Violence Prevention Council Liaison (Boyd):**

No report.

◇ **Family Justice Center Liaison (Boyd):**

In Boyd's absence staff reported that there has been significant progress in funding the Center. Specifically, AB635 has gained legislative support in Sacramento and could provide \$100,000 to \$150,000 in funding. Also, the Glenn Price Group is applying for a grant from the Office of Violence Against Women. If successful, this grant would provide \$300,000 in support over a 3-year period.

◇ **Community Issues Liaison (formerly Human Trafficking) (Brenner):**

Brenner reported that task force's most recent meeting had been cancelled. She has been working on a list of objectives for the group and is anxious to begin actively working on the issue and may take steps to get the project underway.

◇ **Non-Traditional Career Exploration Liaison (Brenner):**

Brenner reported that the design team sub-committee she is working on has been focusing on how to deal with cultural differences. She has been researching this matter and has found some valuable resources for culturally proficient inquiry that will help identify gaps between groups. She believes that analyzing the available data with these tools will produce valuable information.

**IX. STAFF REPORT:**

Attendance Report Distribution:

Staff distributed the attendance report to Commissioners.

Correspondence:

Staff reported that the office received a request from three local therapists to address the Commission on intervention to prevent bullying in the schools, particularly of girls. This request has been referred to the Legislation and Representation Task Force for evaluation.

Update on Staff Activities:

Staff announced a change in the Analyst assignment for the Commission. As of June 1<sup>st</sup> Jacoby will be retiring from the County and Martin will resume her role of supporting the both the Commission and the Commission on Human Rights. The Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the support that Jacoby had given them since taking on the assignment last summer.

**X. NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 6:00 PM.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT:**

Kiely adjourned the meeting at 7:49 PM.